

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 239598

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 13693 SENT SECSTATE DATED OCT 4.

QUOTE

S E C R E T ROME 13693

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI PASSES SECRET REPORT ON RIGHT-WING ACTIVITY  
TO PROSECUTOR

1. SUMMARY. DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S ACTION IN PASSING SID REPORT ON RIGHT-WING COUP PLOTS DIRECTLY TO THE ROME CHIEF PROSECUTOR HAS STIRRED PRESS INTEREST AND COMPLAINTS FROM PARTY LEADERS THAT GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT WERE BYPASSED. ALTHOUGH CONTENT OF SID REPORT IS NOT YET KNOWN, IT ALLEGEDLY INCLUDES INFORMATION ON THE DECEMBER 1970 BORGHESE AFFAIR AND MORE RECENT "BLACK" SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. ANDREOTTI'S MOTIVES IN RELEASING IT APPEAR RELATED TO HIS APPARENT DESIRE TO EMPHASIZE HIS ANTI-FASCIST CREDENTIALS (IN COMPETITION WITH INTERIOR MINISTER TAVIANI) AND A POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO SETTLE SCORES WITH FORMER SID CHIEF MICELI. END SUMMARY.

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2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI HAS

RECENTLY TRANSMITTED TO THE ROME PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION A REPORT PREPARED BY THE ITALIAN DEFENSE INFORMATION SERVICE (SID) ON RIGHT-WING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND APPARENTLY ARE NOT FULLY KNOWN BY OTHER TOP GOVERNMENT AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS. PRESS LEAKS ALLEGE THAT THE "SID DOSSIER" INCLUDES INFORMATION ON THE PRINCE VALERIO BORGHESE RUMORED COUP ATTEMPT IN DECEMBER 1970 AND ON RIGHT-WING SUBVERSIVE PLOTS IN JANUARY (ROME 1267) AND AGAIN IN MID-AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. SENSATIONAL PRESS REPORTS INCLUDE ALLEGATIONS THAT SID DOSSIER INCLUDES INFORMATION OF RIGHT-WING PLANS TO KIDNAP AND/OR ASSASSINATE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT, PARTY AND LABOR LEADERS AND THAT SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING MILITARY MEN ARE AMONG THOSE IMPLICATED IN THE PLOTTING. THE LATTER ALLEGATION HAS DRAWN A SHARP DENIAL FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. ANDREOTTI ALSO HAS ISSUED STATEMENT DEFENDING THE ARMED FORCES AND "EXTRANEOUS TO ANY POLITICAL INTRIGUE." INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE SID DOSSIER AND THE RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS BETWEEN ROME MAGISTRATES AND SID OFFICIALS IN RECENT DAYS WERE PRESUMABLY A MAJOR TOPIC AT AN OCTOBER 3 CONFIDENTIAL "SUMMIT" MEETING TODAY OF MAGISTRATES FROM ROME, MILAN, TURIN AND PADUA TO DISCUSS INVESTIGATION OF RIGHT-WING PLOTS.

3. ANDREOTTI'S ACTION IN PRODUCING AND TRANSMITTING THE SID DOSSIER TO THE MAGISTRACY CAUSED A FLURRY OF PARLIAMENTARY INTERROGATIONS BY ALL PARTIES DEMANDING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BE FULLY INFORMED ON THE RESULTS OF THE SID INVESTIGATIONS. THE NEO-FASCIST MSI AND SOME LEFT-WING, NON-COMMUNIST COMMENTATORS LIKE PSI LEADER LOMBARDI SAW THE REPORT AS LINKED TO INTRA-PARTY FEUDING IN THE DC AND, ACCORDING TO THE MSI, AN ATTEMPT TO COVER UP REGIME LINKS WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. THE COMMUNIST PRESS HAS TAKEN THE LINE THAT ANDREOTTI DID HIS DUTY BY TRANSMITTING THIS POLITICALLY "IMPORTANT" REPORT TO THE MAGISTRACY, BUT THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO FULLY INFORM THE PARLIAMENT ON THE DETAILS. PARTY DAILY L'UNITA URGED THE NEED FOR PUBLIC CLARIFICATION OF THE MATTER IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE "HONOR AND GOOD NAME OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND OTHER STATE BODIES WHOSE LOYALTY, ON THE WHOLE, TOWARD THE REPUBLIC CONSISTUTION IS BEYOND QUESTION." IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO DAMPEN PRESS SPECULATION, THE ROME CHIEF PROSECUTOR SIOTTO OCT 3 ISSUED A STATEMENT DENYING THAT ANYTHING IN THE SID

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REPORT INDICATES A COUP ATTEMPT IN JANUARY OR AUGUST OF THIS YEAR OR THAT MATERIAL TURNED OVER INCLUDES A TAPED CONVERSATION BETWEEN FORMER SID CHIEF GENERAL MICELI AND A BERSAGLIERI OFFICER. SIOTTO ADDED THAT THE SID MATERIAL WAS TRANSMITTED TO HIM ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND WAS THEN PASSED ON TO APPROPRIATE JUDICIAL OFFICES FOR INVESTIGATION.

4. EMBASSY SOURCES IN DC PARTY EXPRESS PUZZLEMENT AND CONCERN

ABOUT REASONS BEHIND AND CONTENTS OF ANDREOTTI-SID REPORT.  
GENERAL VIEW IS THAT MOVE IS PART OF ANDREOTTI'S RECENT EFFORTS  
TO MAKE HIMSELF MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LEFT-WING OF THE POLITICAL  
SPECTRUM TO OFFSET HIS ROLE AS LEADER OF THE 1972-73 CENTRIST  
GOVERNMENT. DC SOURCES EXPRESS SOME IRRITATION REGARDING HIGHLY  
"PERSONAL" MANNER IN WHICH MATTER WAS HANDLED AND FAILURE OF  
ANDREOTTI TO TOUCH BASE WITH PARTY COLLEAGUES OR SUBSEQUENTLY  
TO INFORM THEM OF CONTENTS OF REPORT.

5. COMMENT. WHILE AFFAIR IS STILL MURKY, IT APPEARS LIKELY  
THAT INTERPRETATION OF DC SOURCES BASICALLY CORRECT. IN ADDITION,  
MOVE MUST BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF HIGH PROFILE ANTI-FASCIST  
CAMPAIGN BY FELLOW DC LEADER INTERIOR MINISTER TAVIANI AND  
FACT THAT ANDREOTTI REPORTEDLY HAS DEEP SEATED ANIMUS AGAINST  
FORMER SID CHIEF MICELI. FACT THAT EVIDENCE ON RIGHT-WING  
PLOTS WAS KEPT IN FILES UNDER PREVIOUS (TANASSI) ADMINISTRATION  
AT DEFENSE MINISTRY WHILE MICELI WAS HEAD OF SID MAY BE USED  
AS REBUKE TO MICELI. PRESS REPORTS THAT MICELI, WHO WAS  
SLATED TO RECEIVE A HIGH MILITARY COMMAND, MAY NOW BE  
DENIED IT. BEAUDRY  
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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